Group	Vacancies as on 31/3/07	Vacancies filled during 01.04.07 to 30.11.07
Gr-B (GOs)	87	14
Gr-B (NGOs)	1595	43

(b) Recruitment rules of Group B (Gazetted Officer and Group B Non-Gazetted Officers) have been revised vide notification dated 23.5.07, GSR No. 379 (E) to 385 (E) to facilitate filling the vacancies which are promotion posts.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Protection of jobs in traditional export industries

1630. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry has evolved any mechanism to preserve and protect the jobs in traditional export industries such as handicrafts, textiles, etc. from the adverse impact of relentless rising of rupee and simultaneously continuing the promotion of Special Economic Zones (SEZs);

(b) if so, the details of the mechanism that is proposed to be initiated and the number of exporters to be benefited and the export earnings that are to be accrued to the traditional industries; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) To ensure that the job losses in these sectors are minimized, Government announced a set of measures aimed at providing relief to the exporters. These include reduction in the interest rate on pre shipment and post shipment credit, increase in drawback and DEPB rates, a select set of services for refund/exemption of service taxes, interest on certain EEFC balances and increasing the list of products under Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojna and also raising the revenue ceiling under the Scheme by Rs. 300 crores, accelerated reimbursement of terminal excise duty and central sales tax to exporters, provision of payment of interest for delays in re-imbursement of Terminal Excise Duty and Central Sales Tax. It is expected that these measures would, to some extent, neutralize the impact of rupee appreciation.

Manufacture of paints

1631. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has laid down any norms for manufacturing of paints and if so, the details thereof;